

## Framework for Evaluating Water Resource Planning Options

<b>Thresholds</b>	
<b>Local Control</b>	The option must allow the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District to protect, maintain, and determine uses of the existing water rights.
<b>Legally Viable</b>	The option must implement actions that are currently legal, or if they require permits, variances or changes to law, those are likely to be obtained.
<b>Evaluation Criteria: For Example, Does the option...</b>	
<b>Environmental:</b>  <i>Support the preservation or enhancement of the Mad River eco-system?</i>	Maintain in-stream flows for wildlife and people living along the Mad River?
	Protect and maintain wildlife and fisheries in the Mad River watershed?
	Enhance or increase wildlife and fisheries habitat area and/or quality?
	Use the least energy possible in delivery of water?
<b>Access:</b>  <i>Provide access to a sufficient and long-term supply of high quality water for multiple purposes?</i>	Maintain use of as much of the permitted flows (approx. 75 MGD) as possible?
	Provide high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds water quality standards?
	Provide sufficient water supply throughout the term of the District's current permit?
	Allow for river- and lake-based recreation?
	Protect and maintain access for Native Americans?
<b>Economic Development:</b>  <i>Employ water as an asset to benefit the regional economy?</i>	Contribute to the viability and vitality of the regional economy?
	Encourage technological innovation and entrepreneurship?
	Create or retain jobs within the regional economy?
<b>District Cost Recovery:</b> <i>Provide funding to the District for infrastructure maintenance, and thereby, decrease the costs to domestic ratepayers?</i>	Contribute to covering the District's costs for infrastructure maintenance, upgrades and/or expansion?
	Increase the District's customer base?
	Decrease or maintain customer rates?
	Utilize existing industrial system infrastructure?
	Generate energy for system use or net sale?
<b>Community Quality of Life:</b>  <i>Provide recognizable benefits to, and improvements in, our community's "Quality of Life"?</i>	Support and improve community and environmental health, reduce stress, support spiritual needs and sense of purpose?
	Encourage community engagement?
	Inspire wide-spread community support?

## Guidance for Applying Framework

This guidance document was prepared to assist the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District Board of Directors (HBMWD Board of Directors) as they consider options for water resource planning. The HBMWD Board of Directors appointed a Water Resource Planning Advisory Committee to prepare and recommend evaluation criteria and water use options. The Advisory Committee developed this document through an extensive community engagement process that gathered input from a 60+ member Citizens Study Group and over 190 participants in three public meetings in the District.

The public's values are expressed in both the "thresholds" and the "evaluation criteria". Together, they form a decision-making framework that can guide the HBMWD Board of Directors, the Advisory Committee, and the public, as they consider specific options for water use.

The most frequent and strongly expressed value from the community was that the District retains "local control of the water rights." This value has been made a "threshold." For any option to be evaluated, it must first fulfill and pass this "local control" threshold. A second threshold is "legal viability"; if an option is not legally viable, then it should not be considered further.

Once an option passes the thresholds, the evaluation criteria can be applied to determine how well the option fulfills community values.

All evaluation criteria are important, as they represent the public's stated priorities relative to water use planning. Each option may not meet all the criteria, but all criteria should be considered to guide the HBMWD Board of Directors' decision-making.

The criteria should be applied in such a way that they allow for adaptation as conditions evolve.